3rd March 1958]

School Assistants of B.T. grade

* 30 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Ranganathan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of posts of School Assistants of B.T. Grade, permanent and temporary, sanctioned for Government institutions, viz., secondary schools including middle schools and training schools for this State;

(*b*) whether any post remained vacant on 1st July 1957; and

(*c*) if so, the number of such posts and the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Finance): (*a*) 548, Sir.

(*b*) & (*c*) About 36 posts remained vacant on 1st July 1957 owing to the deputation of teachers for re-training in Basic Education and dearth of qualified hands for appointment. Most of the vacant posts were filled in subsequently.

SRI JOHN ASIRVATHAM: May I know the provision made for those who were on leave or under training and the children who went without any instruction at all?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The hon. Member may put a separate question.

Highways Department

* 31 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to amalgamate the Highways Department with the Public Works Department, and if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN: A proposal to amalgamate the Highways Department with the Public Works Department is being examined. Details are being worked out.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: As the Highways Department is a specially technical department, would the Government consider the question whether it would not impair the efficiency of the work connected with roads and bridges if the Highways Department is amalgamated with the Public Works Department?

THE HON. SRI P KAKKAN: It will also be considered, Sir.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI: இம்மாதிரி இரண்டு துறைகளையும் இணைப்பது என்றால், இரண்டு துறைகளின் தலைவர்களாகிய இரண்டு சீப் இன்ஜினியர்களுக்குப் பதிலாக ஒரு சீப் என்ஜினியர் வைத்துக்கொள்ளுவது என்று அர்த்தமா? ஹைவேஸ் டிபார்ட்மெண்டே இல்லாமல், பி. டபிள்யு. டி. ஜெனரல் சீப் என்ஜினியரையே தலைவராக வைத்துக்கொள்வது என்பது கொள்கையா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.